

Dear Members of NZSAP,

There will be a motion put forward by the Management Committee at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production that the current proceedings be published as a scientific journal. The NZ Grasslands Association made the same change with their proceedings in 2015. The details and the rationale of the proposal are outlined in the following discussion paper.

Discussion paper for the conversion of NZSAP conference proceedings to a journal

May 2017

The proposal:

The NZSAP management committee are proposing to publish the NZSAP conference proceedings as a scientific journal. The journal will be published annually at the conference, and will replace the current proceedings. *This is primarily a change in name, the red book will remain largely the same.*

Justification:

NZSAP proceedings are currently more substantial than typical conference proceedings – they are peer-reviewed, full length and are reviewed by an editorial board. For some key contributing organisations, e.g. universities and CRIs, there is greater value given to journal articles over conference proceedings, and this change would facilitate continued publication by these organisations in the proceedings.

The requirements to be a journal include:

- An editorial board (the committee fills this role, reviewing abstracts for their suitability)
- An editor (already in place)
- A suitable editorial process (already in place: papers are peer-reviewed by 2 referees)

Therefore, the change requires the red book to be renamed as a journal and to include mention that it is “a continuation of the Proceedings of the NZ Society of Animal Production” on the cover. It will also mention that it is peer reviewed inside the front cover.

Specific considerations and recommendations:

1. **Preliminaries:** There will be a section at the front (or back) of the journal that includes the Society pages (i.e. Index of authors, Annual report, Officers of the society, Award winners, Obituaries, President’s address, Presidents of the Society, Society records and Abstracts from a sponsored meeting/conference). These preliminaries will be published in the hardcopy, and under the relevant sections of the website, but not included in the existing searchable archive.
2. **Contract sessions:** Peer review of papers submitted in contract sessions has previously been arranged by the session chair. As part of the journal, contract session chairs would need to

select from one of two options for papers in their session:

a. *Peer-reviewed papers for publication in the journal.*

Papers are submitted to the editor in early February for approval by the committee and for peer review alongside standard articles. The session chair could make suggestions as to appropriate reviewers.

b. *Presentations with accompanying abstract only.*

These speakers will not produce a full paper, instead a 400-word abstract will be included in the preliminaries section of the journal. This would be reviewed by the session chair and the journal editor.

3. **Brief communications:** These will remain, but will require a 150 word abstract included, enabling better indexing by search engines. The word limit for a brief communication will be increased by 150 words to accommodate this.
4. **Invited award presentations, non-peer-reviewed** – e.g. Living Legend Address. These will be included in the preliminaries section, alongside the presidential address.
5. **Copyright:** A recent change to NZSAP copyright allowed material submitted to NZSAP to be republished elsewhere. This change will be revoked for both full papers and brief communications as the NZSAP publication would now be a journal article. [Note: the management committee is currently seeking legal advice to confirm this is the most appropriate approach to copyright. This will be completed prior to the AGM].

Possible titles:

If this proposal is approved, the membership will have the option to vote on the journal title. The committee's suggested options are:

- New Zealand Journal of Animal Production
- New Zealand Journal of Animal Science and Production
- Journal of New Zealand Animal Production

Alternative suggestions for the journal title can be submitted in writing to the President (N.M.Schreurs@massey.ac.nz) no later than 5pm Friday 23 June.

Enquiries:

Enquiries regarding this proposal can be directed to any member of the NZSAP management committee.

Motion:

It is moved that the Proceedings of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production be published by the Society in the form of a scientific journal, beginning in 2018.